

# expecting

Part 2: Same Ol' Same Ol'  
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## My first impression of the shepherds: Slackers

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. – Luke 2:8 (KJV)*

## A biblical impression of the shepherds: Devoted , hard working people

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. – Luke 2:8 (NIV)*

***The shepherds were expecting nothing out of the ordinary!***

## Luke 2:9-20

<sup>9</sup>An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the LORD has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

***What if all we were expecting for Christmas was God?***

*(Continues on back)*

## A moment of Christmas expectation produces:

- **Movement toward God** (vs. 15-16 – *Let's go to Bethlehem...*)
- **Passionate conversation** (vs. 17-18 – *they spread the word...*)
- **Focused reflection** (vs. 19 – *Mary treasured up these things and pondered them in her heart*)
- **Heartfelt worship** (vs. 20a - *...glorifying and praising God...*)
- **Confident confirmation** (vs. 20b - *...which were just as they had been told*)

## Next Steps:

Do you need some “abiding” time? Plan some time today to find a quiet place and read the Christmas story in Luke 2, or plan on joining us for a quiet evening of reflection and scripture at our Candlelight Communion service next Sunday evening at 7:00 PM.

## On your way home:

Drive to wherever you're headed. But before you get out of the car, pause and wait for just 5 minutes. Use this time to thank God for the gift of His Son. Worship God because of His great love for you.

### Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What is your favorite Christmas decoration? Why?
- 2) Of all of the people in the Christmas story, whom do you relate to most? Whom do you relate to least?
  - a. The obedient parents of Jesus
  - b. The seeking wise men
  - c. The ordinary shepherds
  - d. Angry King Herod
  - e. Others?
- 3) The birth of the Son of God was first announced to common people. What do you think that says about God? What does it say about us?
- 4) What is your plan to “abide” this Christmas? How have you intentionally chosen to rest in God's presence and not be overwhelmed by the busyness of the season?
- 5) Are you praying for a Christmas miracle this year? How can we pray for that miracle with you tonight?